

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 079756

USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MARCH 28 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL  
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES QUOTED HIGH-RANKING  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT WESTERN ALLIANCE  
SOON WOULD AGREE TO PLAN THAT COULD ENABLE U.S. TO BEGIN  
PRODUCING NEUTRON WARHEAD LATER THIS YEAR. "OFFICIALS SAID  
THAT THEY EXPECTED AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY ALLIANCE EARLY NEXT  
MONTH DEALING BOTH WITH QUESTION OF AMERICAN PRODUCTION OF  
WEAPON AND ITS DEPLOYMENT IN WESTERN EUROPE," BURT REPORTED.  
"THEY SAID THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR  
EARLY LAST WEEK, BUT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD AT LAST  
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MINUTE POSTPONED CAREFULLY DEvised PLAN FOR MOVING AHEAD  
WITH BOMB. ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS DESCRIBED DELAY AS  
TEMPORARY, THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT HAD PROVOKED HEATED  
DEBATE WITHIN ADMINISTRATION AND HAD COMPLICATED EFFORTS BY  
ALLIANCE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON SENSITIVE ISSUE...OFFICIALS  
SAID THAT UNDER COMPROMISE U.S. WOULD IMMEDIATELY BEGIN  
PRODUCING WEAPON, BUT ITS DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE WOULD BE  
HELD UP FOR TWO YEARS WHILE ALLIANCE TESTED MOSCOW'S  
REACTION TO LIMITING NEUTRON BOMB IN RETURN FOR RESTRIC-  
TIONS ON NEW SOVIET NUCLEAR SYSTEM, SUCH AS INTERMEDIATE-

RANGE SS-20. IF THIS EFFORT AT ARMS CONTROL FAILED, ALLIANCE COUNTRIES WOULD THEN ALLOW U.S. TO BEGIN DEPLOYING NEUTRON BOMB ON THEIR TERRITORY. WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT MR. CARTER'S DECISION NOT TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PLAN WAS BASED ON DOUBTS WHETHER ALLIED GOVERNMENTS WERE IN FACT PREPARED TO ALLOW BOMB'S DEPLOYMENT IF TALKS WITH MOSCOW FAILED. MR. CARTER, THEY SAID, HAS ASKED FOR STRONGER COMMITMENT FROM ALLIED LEADERS ON QUESTION BEFORE HE APPROVES PLAN."

2. WALTER PINCUS, OF WASHINGTON POST, ON SAME SUBJECT, SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION "ABRUPTLY CHANGED COURSE LAST WEEK AND CALLED OFF NEGOTIATIONS IN BRUSSELS WITH ITS EUROPEAN NATO ALLIES SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO COURT THEIR PUBLIC SUPPORT OF U.S. PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON ARTILLERY SHELLS AND MISSILE WARHEADS." PINCUS SAID "ALTHOUGH SOME ADMINISTRATION SOURCES MAINTAINED YESTERDAY THAT PRESIDENT HAS NOT YET MADE HIS FINAL GO-AHEAD DECISION, TALKS WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER WAY FOR SEVERAL WEEKS WERE BASED ON PRELIMINARY WHITE HOUSE DETERMINATION THAT PRODUCTION ORDER WOULD BE MADE BY MID-APRIL." ONE SOURCE TOLD PINCUS "THAT DECISION HAD BEEN MADE SOME TIME AGO, BUT NOW WE ARE IN HOLDING PATTERN." PINCUS SAID SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERPRETED TALKS CANCELLATION LAST WEEK AS SIGN PRESIDENT HAS REVERSED HIMSELF AND IS NOW LEANING AGAINST NEUTRON GO-AHEAD. OTHERS, HOWEVER, SAID CARTER HAS MADE ONLY "DECISION TO DELAY DECISION." PINCUS SAID "THERE WAS SOME CONSTERNATION AT STATE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE OF SUDDEN WHITE HOUSE DECISION LAST WEEK TO PULL BACK FROM NEUTRON PRODUCTION DISCUSSIONS." HE SAID GREAT DEAL OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORT HAD GONE INTO MOVING WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND BRITISH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN CLOSER TO SPEAKING OUT IN SUPPORT OF PRODUCTION. "ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, HIGH-LEVEL CARTER AIDE WILL GO TO EUROPE SOON TO EXPLAIN PRESIDENT'S NEW COURSE," PINCUS REPORTED. HE SAID THERE WAS "NO CONSENSUS ON HOW LONG CURRENT 'HOLDING PATTERN' WOULD LAST."

3. TIME MAGAZINE (APRIL 3) REPORTED ON DAYLONG NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES ROUND TABLE IT SPONSORED IN NEW YORK FEATURING "FIVE OF NATION'S LEADING DEFENSE EXPERTS" TO ANALYZE AND EXPLAIN SOVIET MILITARY CHALLENGE. "WHILE ANALYSTS REPRESENTED SOME WIDELY DIVERGENT VIEWS, THEY GENERALLY AGREED ON NUMBER OF KEY MATTERS: 1. SOVIET UNION'S CONTINUING NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL MILITARY BUILDUP IS INCREASINGLY OMINOUS AND MAY JEOPARDIZE DELICATE BALANCE OF POWER THAT HAS DETERRED NUCLEAR WAR. 2. DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS LIKE SALT MAY NOT BE CAPABLE, BY THEMSELVES, OF PRESERVING THIS US-USSR BALANCE.

3. U.S. MAY BE HAMPERED BY LACK OF CREATIVE STRATEGIC THINKING." ANALYSTS WERE ACDA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BARRY BLECHMAN, MOST "DOVISH" OF GROUP; JOHN COLLINS, SENIOR SPECIALIST IN NATIONAL DEFENSE AT CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE; LT. GEN. ANDREW GOODPASTER; WILLIAM HYLAND, SENIOR FELLOW AT GEORGETOWN CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, AND EDWARD LUTTWAK, SENIOR FELLOW AT GEORGETOWN CENTER.

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4. AVIATION WEEK (MARCH 27) REPORTED THAT ADMINISTRATION HAS CONDUCTED INTENSIVE INTERNAL MEETINGS RECENTLY TO ARRIVE AT CONSENSUS IN PRESENTING COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY THAT WILL NOT ONLY BE SIGNED BY SOVIET UNION, BUT ALSO WILL RECEIVE FINAL APPROVAL OF CAUTIOUS CONGRESS. QUOTING CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS AND STAFFERS, AVIATION WEEK SAID ADMINISTRATION IS SPLIT OVER VITAL ISSUES OF VERIFICATION OF ANY CTB AGREEMENT. CONGRESSIONAL AIDE SAID INTERDEPARTMENTAL DIFFERENCES CENTER ON PERMITTING SOME LEVEL OF NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES, AVIATION WEEK ADDED. LED BY ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE, NSC HAS ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCE PRESIDENT THAT LOWER NUCLEAR THRESHOLD COULD BE ACCEPTED, AVIATION WEEK REPORTED. ON OTHER SIDE, PENTAGON AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT MAINTAIN THAT ONLY HIGHER NUCLEAR THRESHOLD LEVEL COULD BE ALLOWED TO PREVENT SOVIETS FROM CIRCUMVENTING TREATY. "SUDDEN SURGE IN ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS AT HAMMERING OUT CTB TREATY WAS ATTRIBUTED BY CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER TO APPARENT DEADLOCK IN SALT," AVIATION WEEK STATED. "HE NOTED THAT ADMINISTRATION MAY BE CONTEMPLATING AN EARLY EFFORT IN CTB AREA BECAUSE 'SOME AGREEMENT COULD GET THROUGH' CONGRESS THIS TIME." MAGAZINE SAID HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRED BY REP. MELVIN PRICE RECENTLY HELD CLOSED-DOOR HEARINGS ON CTB TREATY. WITNESSES INCLUDED ACDA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR THOMAS DAVIES. SIMILAR HEARING IS BEING PLANNED BY SUBCOMMITTEE OF SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE.

5. NEW YORK TIMES SAID INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS YESTERDAY DENIED LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORT THAT SOVIET UNION WAS BUILDING BASE FOR NUCLEAR SUBMARINES IN CUBA, BUT THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NEW NAVAL FACILITY WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT CUBAN PORT OF CIENFUEGOS. OFFICIALS SAID NEW CONSTRUCTION HAD BEEN DETECTED AT CIENFUEGOS BUT THAT

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THERE WAS NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT IT WAS MEANT FOR USE BY SOVIET SUBMARINES, TIMES REPORTED. THESE OFFICIALS SAID LAST TIME SOVIET NUCLEAR SUBMARINE VISITED CUBA WAS IN 1973 AND THAT IT WAS NOT ARMED WITH STRATEGIC MISSILES.

OFFICIALS SAID NEW FACILITY AT CIENFUEGOS WAS UNDER  
REGULAR SCRUTINY AND ARRIVAL OF MISSILE-ARMED SUBMARINES  
COULD BE QUICKLY DETECTED.

6. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST MARQUIS CHILDS, WRITING IN  
WASHINGTON POST, SAID AMBASSADOR GERARD SMITH HAS "EXCEP-  
TIONAL QUALIFICATIONS" FOR HIS PRESENT ASSIGNMENT AS  
AMBASSADOR AT LARGE. HE SAID SMITH KNOWS PROBABLY MORE  
THAN ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL OUTSIDE THE SCIENCE ORBIT ABOUT  
THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE NUCLEAR PROCESS AND WHAT THAT  
PROCESS MEANS WHEN TRANSLATED INTO "FANTASTIC WEAPONS"  
ALREADY IN EXISTENCE, UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR ON DRAWING  
BOARD. CHILDS SAID SMITH IS "FIRM IN HIS BELIEF THAT  
SENSE WILL ULTIMATELY PREVAIL AND THAT NUMBER OF NUCLEAR  
POWERS WILL BE CONFINED TO PRESENT SIX." COOPER

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## Message Attributes

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